

CAPITOL LETTERS

Bringing Communities Together for Our Children



Quarterly Newsletter
from the
Office of Lt. Governor
Brad Owen

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2002 Legislative Highlights



The 2002 legislative session adjourned on schedule this year after adopting a \$7.7 billion transportation plan that will go to voters in November. Legislators also worked to piece together a solution to the \$1.6 billion budget deficit. The following legislation passed both the House and the Senate and now go to the Governor for his signature:

Anti-terrorism

Exemption of certain information such as vulnerability assessments of bridges and public facilities from public disclosure laws

Drug Offender Sentencing

Reducing penalties for non-violent drug offenders in favor of treatment and drug courts

Higher Education

As part of the budget package sent to Governor Locke, a \$54 million across-the-board cut was imposed on state colleges and universities, much of which will be compensated for through tuition increases

Insurance Credit Scoring

Prohibiting insurance companies from canceling or refusing to renew a personal insurance policy due to a consumer's credit history

Protecting our Children from Dangerous Influences

Recently, a major television network decided to lift a decades-old voluntary ban on hard-liquor ads. In the face of commercial benefit, the remaining major networks chose to uphold their bans on these ads. Under pressure from public policy groups, the American Medical Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and government officials, the dangerous advertising has been withdrawn from the network. Lt. Governor Owen joined in the successful effort to persuade the reconsideration of airing hard-liquor ads by personally supporting the networks that maintained their ban, commending the choice to protect our nation's youth from the dangerous influence of alcohol. He also raised the issue to a gathering of substance abuse prevention and recovery professionals at a public policy forum. Lt. Governor Owen and others' aim was to draw attention to the significance of maintaining strong standards against normalizing hard-liquor consumption through commercialization.

Some facts about alcohol and kids:

- According to recent government data, youth who start drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who wait until age 21
- Adolescents who drink are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior, and are more vulnerable to higher rates of clinical depression, academic problems, crime victimization, and sexual assault
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that by the time children reach middle-school, they have been exposed to tens of thousands of hours of various forms of media
- AAP has found that advertisers of alcohol use the power and influence of extensive media exposure to convey a positive message about drinking, supporting a variety of myths that encourage youth to drink
- The reality is that youth who drink are 7.5 times more likely to use illicit drugs, and 50 times more likely to use cocaine
- Alcohol related car crashes are the leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24

Historic Furnishings:



This armchair was one of the many pieces on display during the 2nd Annual Founders Day Celebration. The history card on the chair reads: "This is one of the nineteen (19) class "A-1" Mahogany and leather upholstered armchairs manufactured by the WJ Sloane Co. of New York for the Legislative Building in 1927 for the cost of \$130.00 each. Made for the Governor's Office, today there are twelve (12) remaining."



This classic spittoon was personally donated by Judy Gould to the Lt. Governor's Office. It is an excellent example of classic furnishings, such as those being preserved by the Historic Furnishings Preservation Committee.

2nd Annual "Founders Day Celebration" a Monumental Success

On February 21, 2002 the Historic Furnishings Preservation Committee held the 2nd Annual Founder's Day Celebration at the Temple of Justice in Olympia. A variety of items, donated by a wide cross section of people and organizations, was available for silent bidding.

Some items available this year were a baseball jersey autographed by Seattle Mariner Edgar Martinez, a collectible fire boat model, and an antique brass wood and kindling box. This year's event raised approximately \$4,000 to continue the committee's recovery work.

Representative Sandra Romero and Chief Justice Gerry Alexander are co-chairs of the Historic Furnishings Preservation Committee. The committee was established by the Washington State Legislature during the 2000 legislative session to promote and encourage the recovery and preservation of original and historic furnishings of the capitol group. The committee's authority includes raising funds, soliciting grants, bequests, and gifts and expending funds for the recovery and preservation of original furnishings.

Original furnishings are an integral aspect of the Capitol Campus renovation and preservation plan. The majesty of facilities restored to their original splendor is made even more breathtaking by the presence of the original furnishings.

The dedicated members of the Capitol Furnishings Preservation Committee appreciate, and actively seek, public participation in their efforts.

If you have knowledge of historic furnishings, wish to know more about the committee, or want to contribute to their efforts you may contact Derek Valley at (360)753-8520 or by email at Dvalley@wshs.wa.gov.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"All true art must help the soul to realize its inner self."

-Mahatma Gandhi



"Let every man be respected as an individual and no man idolized."

-Albert Einstein



"A sense of humor is a sense of proportion."

-Kahlil Gibran

"Wisdom begins in wonder."

-Socrates



"If you want to test a man's character, give him power."

-Abraham Lincoln

"It is not the knowing that is difficult, but the doing."

-Chinese Proverb



"The only slavery is service without love."

- e.e. cummings

"We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization."

Recent Happenings



Lt. Governor Owen and Senator Oke host the state legislature's farewell to Seattle Mariner Jay Buhner on the occasion of his retirement. The events of the day included the reading of Senate and House resolutions honoring Buhner's contributions to the community and the state.



Honoring Apolo Ohno before the Senate for his outstanding accomplishment of being awarded the gold medal in short track speed skating during the 2002 Winter Olympics. Apolo is joined on the right by the Lt. Governor and his father, Yuki Ohno.



At the USS Ingraham's homecoming in January, the ship's CDR "Tuck" Hord(l), Lt. Governor Owen (c), and Snohomish County Commissioner Drewel (r) discuss the key role that the Ingraham played as part of the USS Carl Vinson battle group in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.



Lt. Governor Owen welcomes New Zealand Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. John Wood, on his first visit to Seattle. The luncheon gathering included New Zealand Consul General Dunn, Seattle Ambassador Newman, state Senator Jacobsen, and various local dignitaries and business people connected with New Zealand.

Meet a Staff Member

Genevieve Long: Public Information Officer

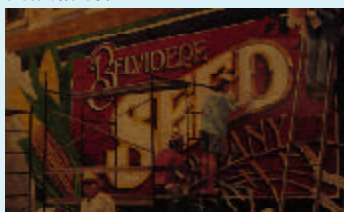


In December 2001, Genevieve became the newest staff member in the Lieutenant Governor's Office when she joined the team as the Public Information Officer. Genevieve graduated from the University of Southern California in May 2000 with a BA in International Relations and a minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures. She returned to her hometown of Olympia after graduation, and went to work for Governor Locke as a press liaison and writer. Genevieve brings her experiences traveling, living, and studying abroad in Asia and Central America as well as her knowledge of the Japanese and Spanish languages to the office. She is a dedicated member of her community, playing an active role as a volunteer English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor. She also teaches Japanese language and culture in classrooms in Thurston and Lewis counties. Genevieve's future plans include beginning graduate studies in Fall 2002 as a Masters in Teaching student at Evergreen State College.

2002 Featured Artists



The Lt. Governor's Art Council is organized and chaired by his wife, Linda Owen, shown here with a picture currently on display by John Hannukaine.



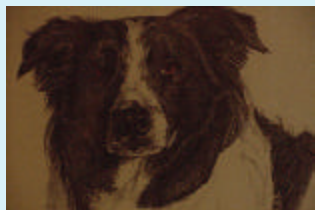
John Hannukaine



Janice Bell



Paul Steucke



Warren Schutz



Robert Tandecki

ART COUNCIL CORNER

Founded in 1997, the Lt. Governor's Art Council encourages the promotion and advancement of Washington State artists. Quarterly exhibits are based on subject themes, and often incorporate a variety of mediums.

The current display now being proudly presented by Lt. Governor and Linda Owen:

"EverydayHeroes"

Featured artists now on exhibit through December 2002:

•John Hannukaine

Hannukaine is an accomplished artist and graphics specialist with a BA in Art Education. Hannukaine has owned and operated a sign and graphics business for twenty years.

•Janice Bell

Janice Bell has owned and operated a photography business since 1992, traveling throughout the world to photograph. Her work has been widely published and sold as souvenirs of the region.

•Paul Steucke

Mr. Steucke has over 30 years of experience living and painting in a variety of regions. He holds a Fine Arts degree and has received two competitive fellowships from the Virginia Art Museum.

•Warren Schutz

Warren Schutz's drawings and paintings have been shown at public and private venues in Pierce and Thurston counties. The scenery of Washington is his main inspiration for his watercolors.

•Robert Tandecki

Robert Tandecki has professionally painted for the past 25 years. He paints mainly maritime scenes and has won several prestigious art awards.

"Take a Page from Our Book" Feature Story



Megan Johnson of Federal Way has spent many long days and hours in hospitals and knows from first-hand experience that a good video can do wonders to take your mind off of hospital life.

Megan was born with hemifacial dysplasia, which caused a cleft lip and palate in addition to other medical problems. For her it has meant a life of hospital visits; at age 10 she has already had 19 surgeries with many more in her future. Megan's many hospital stays have also meant discovering a way to help other kids in similar situations.

This discovery came in the form of realizing that hospitals are sorely in need of good videos for kids. Children, she says, can be stuck in hospital beds for weeks with nothing to do and nothing good to watch.

So Megan and her Girl Scout Troop decided to do something about it. During the month of December 2001, Troop 421 set up collection boxes in local grocery stores, and was able to collect close to 1,500 videos. The videos were then distributed to five children's hospitals in Washington and Oregon.

A little amazed at the success of the video drive, Megan says, "I just wanted to help. I understand the pain and lonely feeling of being in a hospital. It brings a tear to my eye to think of other kids suffering. I wish I could do more."

The Future of International Trade in Washington State

The Legislative Committee on Economic Development (LCED) was created in 1985 to “provide responsive and consistent involvement by the legislature in economic development to maintain a healthy state economy and to provide employment opportunities to Washington residents.” (Chapter 44.52 RCW) During the interim between yearly legislative sessions, the LCED meets on a regular basis to fulfill this mandate. In 2001, they met once a month from July to December, conducting hearings relevant to the set subject areas of rural development, transportation, economic development, freight mobility, state business climate, globalization, and the education/high-tech connection. The testimony of speakers was taken into consideration in producing the final report of observations and recommendations that was submitted to the legislature.

During the 2002 interim, Washington State’s current and future role in international trade, including trade related policies, goals, and objectives will be examined. Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the US, conducting nearly \$35 billion in export trade every year with 168 countries from Malaysia to Armenia. Japan and China are Washington’s top two trading partners, but our state is equidistant between Europe and Asia, making it an ideal place to do business with all countries of the world. The Port of Seattle, one of the busiest in the world, is also one shipping day closer to East Asian markets than Los Angeles, Long Beach, or San Francisco.



The Lieutenant Governor and other elected officials are regularly asked to be a part of trade missions as well as cultural and educational exchanges. However, Lt. Governor Owen feels that there needs to be a clear directive of what role political leaders are to play in this particular endeavor. This includes determining where the international focus is for our state, or where it should be. When trade missions from Washington State visit other countries, it is vital that they understand the message they are carrying to foreign economic and political leaders, and how that message should be delivered. As elected officials, political leaders traveling as members of trade delegations should also have a certain degree of authority to speak on behalf of the state, but that authority remains unclear. As the LCED addresses international trade issues during the interim, the Lt. Governor will also focus on determining the most effective and meaningful role political leaders can play in the numerous mission requests they receive.

Visits to Lieutenant Governor’s Office by Foreign Dignitaries



Lt. Governor, Senator Kohl-Welles and a visiting delegation of women legislators from Brazil, traveling under the auspices of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL). They visited with elected officials and studied the legislative system of the state of Washington.



Honorary Consul General Esteban and a delegation of executive officers from Iberia Airlines of Spain talk with the Lt. Governor in his office about Washington State’s unique position in the international trade market.



Lt. Governor Owen, Office of Trade and Economic Development, Governor’s Office of International Relations and Protocol, Washington State China Relations Council and others host the Deputy Governor of Liaoning Province China, accompanied by a delegation of Chinese government and business leaders.